

# Canine Encounter Defensive Tactics Training in Filer, ID

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**Subject:** Canine Encounter Defensive Tactics Training in Filer, ID  
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{resent with corrected email address for Chief Reeves... sorry about that}

Dear Chiefs of Police and County Sheriffs,

I am working with other concerned citizens in Idaho regarding dog shooting incidents that recently occurred in Idaho and across the United States. We want both our hard working law enforcement officers and our four legged friends to be safe. The city of Filer will be hosting a POST Council approved Canine Encounter Defensive Tactics continuing education course on July 19th and we are hoping for your support by having your department send an officer to this training. Per information received from Chief Reeves, Filer PD, he has at least 10 spots available to outside agencies.

After the dash cam video showing Corporal Hassani from Filer Police Department shooting a resident's dog, went viral, we delved deeper into the issue and found that nearly all of these dog shooting incidents across the United States were, at least initially, ruled "justified" because the officer "feared the dog." We also found that the number of officers relieved of duty because of these incidents and the lawsuits filed against police departments are on the rise. The Facebook pages, **"Dogs Shot by Police"**

(<https://www.facebook.com/DogsShotbyPolice>) and **"Puppyside The Documentary"** (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Puppyside-The-Documentary/557471920974012>), for example, are only 2 of the larger SocialMedia pages that paint a bleak and heartbreaking picture for dog owners and police alike, but nonetheless illustrate the magnitude of the incidents and increased liabilities law enforcement agencies and municipalities are facing.

In conversations with active duty Idaho law enforcement officers, we received conflicting information, ranging from "I received K9 training at CSI" to "there is nothing they teach you in college and absolutely nothing to prepare you for a dog encounter", "No continuing education classes are offered", and "It's a 'learn on the job' thing." This apparent discrepancy in training is concerning to say the least. In my conversations with Don Hall, Law Enforcement Instructor / Coordinator at the College of Southern Idaho, he pointed out that this type of canine encounter training is not offered at the college level.

We know that many misconceptions, concerns, and fears can be alleviated with education and training of both law enforcement and dog owning citizens alike. That is why classes such as the one scheduled for July 19, 2014 in Filer are so vital to those that serve our communities.

For more specific information about the training, please visit [www.canineencounters.com](http://www.canineencounters.com) . Please review the course outline at <http://www.canineencounters.com/linked/outline%20canine%20encounters.pdf> and weigh the benefit of additional training of your officers for their own safety, as well as for the communities they serve. If you would like to have one or more of your officers partake in the training in Filer on July 19th, please contact Chief Reeves at [fpd1600@filerpolice.com](mailto:fpd1600@filerpolice.com) directly. Class cost is \$25/participant.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Edith Williams